



TOWN OF ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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Winter Preparations Underway

ANDOVER, MA – Like many communities, The Town of Andover starts to prepare for winter well before the snow and ice arrives. The salt sheds get filled and the calcium chloride tanks and pumps get maintained. In October, the office staff prepare contracts for the plowing of roads and parking lots as well as snow removal from building roofs. The mechanics service the spreaders, which are used to apply the salt to the road, by changing chains, lubricating parts, and perform general maintenance to insure they are in good working order when needed. The plows are gone through to make sure they are in good shape, including changing the cutting edges where needed. And then it's on to the trucks, loaders, and sidewalk machines where the same careful oversight is given. But winter preparation doesn't stop with the Highway and Vehicle Maintenance Divisions; all Municipal Services Divisions each have their own work to attend to. The Parks Division cuts and fertilizes parks and playing fields so the grass will be healthy in the spring. The Cemetery Division must clear leaves and other items insuring that the grounds they care for are attractive for visiting loved ones. The Forestry Division cuts back tree branches that may impact snow and ice operations when the heavy snows come. The Water and Sewer Divisions attend to their systems, including turning water off where pipes are in need of winterization. The Building Maintenance Division also has additional concerns and responsibilities. Snow melt for building walkways and stairs is purchased, the heating systems get complete maintenance service and roofs and windows get additional attention, all to insure that these older buildings are as safe and efficient as possible.

In New England we have the luxury of having four wonderful seasons, each one special. The winter weather can be frightening with snow and ice making walking and driving slippery and dangerous. Municipal Services works diligently throughout the winter to keep our roads safe for the traveling public and our buildings warm for our students, residents, and employees. We hope everyone has a great winter and please remember to keep safe. Enjoy winter!

Christopher Cronin
Director of Municipal Services